

ABSTRACT

A surgical fastener is disclosed for clamping  
5 surfaces of a plurality of layers of material together  
comprising a ribbon wire having a substantially  
rectangular cross-section, first and second ends and  
made from a material which enables the ribbon wire to  
be transformed from a first stressed elongate shape to  
10 a second unstressed shape upon the release of the  
ribbon wire from a stressed condition, the first  
stressed elongate shape of the ribbon wire enabling its  
first end to be extended through the plurality of  
layers of material, and with the second shape of the  
15 ribbon wire being in the form of a spring with a  
plurality of coils around a spring axis, with the coils  
being spring biased towards each other along the spring  
axis with sufficient axial force so as to enable coils  
on opposite sides of the layers to clamp the layers of  
20 material together along the spring axis.